Rising land and flat prices

269. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that purchasing or constructing a new house/flat has becoming a distant dream for millions of lower and middle class people due to sky rocketing of land and flat prices in urban areas of the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, particularly for the metros (Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata) with percentage of increase in market price of land and flats during the period; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with the situation so as to facilitate the lower and middle class people's dream of owning their own house/flat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) to (c) The Ministry is concerned about affordability of houses for different sections of society.

In order to address the issue of affordability of houses for all sections of society, the first urban area specific housing policy—the National Urban Housing & Habitat Policy (NUHHP), 2007 has been formulated, which has been laid on the Table of both Houses of the Parliament on 7.12.2007. The Policy seeks to set in motion a process for providing "Affordable Housing for All" particularly for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG) through various types of public-private partnerships and development of various financial and operational innovations.

Apart from NUHHP, 2007, the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) launched by the Government in the year 2005 caters for provisions of housing and basic services to urban poor in 63 specified cities and also for non-specified cities. Also a provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in the current financial year 2007-08 to provide housing for provide interest rate subsidy scheme for loans to Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Low Income Groups (LIG).

A Task Force has also been set up by this Ministry to look into various aspects of providing "Affordable Housing for All" and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of EWS/LIG groups to housing with suitable governmental support and recommend ways and means of enhancing accessibility of MIG groups to housing apart from developing innovative financial instruments for bringing flexibility in the housing market and making recommendations as to fiscal, spatial incentives for increasing supply of houses.

Urban Self Employment Programme

270. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the scheme of Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP) *inter alia* aims to form thrift and credit societies as part of urban poverty alleviation measures;

(b) if so, how many societies have been formed during the last three years in the country and particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) the resources mobilized and the number of poor people benefited by the societies, year-wise;

(d) whether any assistance is provided by Government to the societies;

(e) if so, the allocations made during the last three years, year-wise; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) Setting up of Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS) by urban poor women is one of the sub-components of the Urban self Employment Programme (USEP) component under Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY), an urban poverty alleviation scheme being implemented by this Ministry.

(b) and (c) As reported by States/UTs through Quarterly Progress Reports received upto 15.2.2008, total number of Thrift and Credit Societies set up in the country as well as in Andhra Pradesh, during last three years are as under:

Number of Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
All India	29643	34443	69756
Andhra Pradesh	4477	885	43966

Minimum number of urban poor women in any Thrift and Credit Society is prescribed as 10. The details of the resources mobilized by these Thrift and Credit Societies and number of urban poor women benefited by these societies are maintained at the State level.

(d) As per the guidelines of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana, a Thrift and Credit Society is eligible for getting a lumpsum maximum grant of Rs. 25,000/-subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,000/- per member of Thrift and Credit Society, after one year of its formation.

(e) and (f) There is no separate allocation made for Thrift and Credit Societies (T&CS) component under the Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana scheme and States/UTs are allowed to meet the demand of Thrift and Credit Societies for lumpsum grant, out of the funds available under the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana. Total allocation for the scheme of Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana during last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Allocation	160.00	250.00	344.00

ARC Recommendations for urban poor

271. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) has recommended for conducting a survey to identify urban poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(c) the other recommendations made by the Commission with regard to urban poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC), in its Sixth Report concerning Local Governance has recommended that "an exhaustive survey to identify the urban poor should be carried out within one year.